Air service between Guwahati and Thimphu

119. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to operate Air service from Guwahati to Thimphu (Bhutan);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) None of the Indian carriers are operating on India-Bhutan sector. However Guwahati is already available as a point of call for the designated airlines of Bhutan. It is left to the commercial judgement of airlines to decide on the routes they wish to operate.

Expansion of Palam Airport

120. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Palam Airport is struggling to handle the low cost airline boom;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the airport is also unable to handle the large number of passengers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) High growth in aircraft movements and passenger traffic and the existing infrastructural constraints at Palam Airport do sometimes lead to congestion at the airport. Airports Authority of India has taken steps for rapid exit taxi tracks, parallel taxi track to secondary runway and parking bays. Further, it has been decided to upgrade and modernise the airport through public-private partnership aiming to make it a world-class airport. Steps are being taken for higher number of aircraft movements.